

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods to, for example, allow a series of HTTP request/response transactions to be used to emulate a more fully bi-directional communications channel between a client and a server in a communications network are presented. The client and the server create software objects that can represent both direct connections or connections via intermediary servers such as proxy servers or relay servers, hide the underlying limitations of the transport from the application using it, and in so doing, simplify the programming interface for an application programmer.